



October 18, 2019
401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room, Baltimore
1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Attendees:

Cabinet Members:

Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Mike Pantelides for Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Department of Labor
Deputy Secretary Horacio Tablada for Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE)
Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis for Pete Rahn, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP)
Jim Fielder, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Kory Boone for Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth

Guests:

Amanda Allen, Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affair (GOIA)
Ryan Snow, GOIA
Gretchen Hardman, GOIA (call in)
Meredith Wimbrow, Office of the Governor
Rob O'Connor, MDE
Joe Griffiths, MDP
David McGlone, Deputy Secretary, Labor
Ann Gunning, Labor
Victor Clark, Labor
Janice Walker-Emeogo, Labor
Kory Boone, SDAT
Isaiah Ellis, MHEC
Rick Gordon, Governor's Office of Rural Broadband

Staff:

Ben Wu, Deputy Secretary, Department of Commerce
Julie Woepke, Department of Commerce
Kyle McColgan, Department of Commerce
Jayson Knott, Department of Commerce
Sarah Sheppard, Department of Commerce
Tim LaValle, Department of Commerce
Andrew Sargent, Department of Commerce

I. Call to Order

Secretary Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

II. Chair Update

Secretary Schulz began her presentation by thanking the Subcabinet Secretaries and Agencies who participated in the successful second Governor's Business Summit on September 20th. She proceeded to give a recap of the Governor's Infrastructure and Trade Mission to Australia which followed the Business Summit. The Trade Mission was in collaboration with the National Governor's Association. Two (2) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) were signed by the Governor in Victoria and South Australia related to Life Sciences and Cybersecurity and Satellite Technologies. The Governor also addressed the Australian Defence Industry at its 2019 Cyber Security Summit, touting Maryland as the Cybersecurity Capital of America. Secretary Schulz then provided an update on her 19 County Tours with Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties being the latest.

Secretary Schulz introduced Jayson Knott, Senior Director, Business Development, Department of Commerce who reviewed the recent job wins and select new opportunities. He emphasized activity is occurring throughout the state, not only in the central corridor. (Presentation on file.)

III. Review and approval of August 15, 2019 Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the August 15, 2019 meeting were approved.

IV. Subcabinet Workgroups

a. Customer Service

Mike Pantelides, Executive Director, Office of Small Business Regulatory Assistance, Department of Labor provided an update on the Governor's Customer Service Initiative and Survey Results. He noted that since 2017, when combining the Governor's Customer Service Survey, the Maryland Business Express Survey and the Surveys after Online Transactions, the overall customer service rating is 87%. He provided an update on the recently released FY19 Statewide Customer Service Annual Report, select data on several Subcabinet Agencies and discussed the consideration of launching employee satisfaction surveys. (Presentation on file.)

Discussion occurred among the Subcabinet regarding the employee surveys. Agencies were requested to forward any examples of this type of surveys to Mr. Pantelides for further consideration.

b. Workforce Development

Ann Marie Gunning, Manager, Office of Workforce, Department of Labor provided an update on apprenticeships, noting that the State is experiencing the highest number of apprenticeships on record. She then described several successes with job placements due to recent layoffs. (Presentation on file.)

Sarah Sheppard, Director of Education and Workforce, Department of Commerce reported that the Workforce Workgroup reconvened to review the Maryland Workforce Expressway webpage analytics and marketing. The Workgroup sought input from the Subcabinet on the webpage location, name and marketing through business cards. (Presentation on file.)

c. Job Creators

Deputy Secretary Ben Wu provided the Job Creators Workgroup update noting the Deputy Secretaries held its conference call on September 13th and the addition of two (2) projects suggested at the August Subcabinet were added – Southfield of Elkton in Cecil County and Northpoint in Washington County.

He state the Job Creators list reinforces collaboration among the Regional Resources Teams and is useful for Secretaries and Agencies as they support Counties and participate in County Tours.

d. Small Business

Kory Boone, Special Assistant to the Secretary, SDAT, updated the Subcabinet on the membership of the Workgroup, inter-agency calendar and the upcoming Small Business Stakeholder Summit scheduled for November 7th at the DHCD. Marketing of the Maryland Business Express, the Expressway and the Regional Resources at this event was discussed. The consensus of the Subcabinet was to revisit and Workforce Expressway webpage and make any changes to landing page, name, etc... as discussed in the Workforce Development Workgroup presentation prior to the November 7th Summit. (Presentation on file.)

e. Regional Resources Workgroup

Joe Griffiths, Local Assistance and Training Manager, MDP provided an overview of the progress of the Regional Resources Teams and updates which included simplified reporting, addition of the Fire Marshal on the Teams and proposed Action Plans by Region. He then introduced the Team Leaders to present the Action Plans to the Subcabinet for input.

Ryan Snow of the Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Eastern Shore Team Leader reported that the William Preston, Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge reconstruction project and its impact to businesses, residents, visitors and communities was selected as the top priority. He described the actions taken by the Governor to alleviate the impact of the project and the importance to reemphasize these actions to all impacted. He discussed the contraflow online system implemented for transporters of goods during peak hours, the removal of toll booths and planned video toll system, and the relief of traffic restrictions on Thursdays and Friday. The Subcabinet discussed the importance of communication, impact to businesses, residents and visitors. Mr. Snow also reported that rural broadband, water and sewer and industrial park development are also priorities in the Region.

Isaiah Ellis of DHCD, Baltimore Metro Team Leader reported that the Team had selected compliance with Maryland's lead laws in public school facilities as the priority for the Action Plan. He noted the 2019 enacted legislation insufficiently addressed the need to upgrade facilities and train facility managers. He stated the immediate need to have representation on the Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) and implementation of facility manager training. Long term, he stated that the legislation and funding needs to be re-examined and evaluated.

Secretary McCord stated he is a member of the IAC and invited the Regional Team to participate and welcomed the opportunity to explore the issue further for next steps and support. As an additional priority, Mr. Ellis reported on the BWI Airport Expansion in Anne Arundel County and the opportunity to collaborate on a future aviation mechanical training program.

Joe Griffiths reported for the D.C. Metro Team. He started the Action Plan for this Region is still under development. He added that the marketing of the new transportation project – the Purple Line as a connector of Universities, National Institutes of Health (NIH) and over 2 million square feet of commercial development is an excellent opportunity for collaboration among Agencies.

Gretchen Hardman of the Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Southern Maryland Team Leader presented the Action Plan for the fast tracking of growth related to the recently designated Mallow Bay National Marine Sanctuary. She stated the immediate action was communication with Charles County staff and elected officials and DNR on the vision for the property. The designation could have a positive impact on tourism, business attraction and services, and recreational opportunities. Long term, she stated there may be legislation needed for funding and the maintenance of the ships at the Sanctuary.

Secretary Haddaway-Riccio stated the importance and willingness to work with the local jurisdiction and elected officials as the initial step to determine the master plan/vision for the Mallows Bay Park.

Andrew Sargent of Commerce, Western Maryland Leader addressed the Subcabinet stating that the priority selected by the Team is renewable energy workforce. He stated that there is a dearth of qualified workers in the renewable energy field and it is expected to worsen. The Team proposes to initiate steps to develop this workforce which in turn will attract businesses working in renewable energy solutions, lower the unemployment rate and support the Governor's efforts to become a leader in renewable energy industry. He stated the initial steps include outreach to education partners and partner businesses in the industry. He stated that the outreach and collaboration could lead to legislation focused on renewable energy workforce development. Secretary Fielder encouraged by the discussion, offered assistance with the Higher Education Commission as it relates to curriculum development and certifications and referenced an initiative founded by Ray Lewis in Baltimore entitled Power 52 which may be a model.

Joe Griffiths concluded the presentation by seeking input from the Subcabinet on the revised reporting documents, the reference to Regional Leaders as Navigators and the discussion of marketing the Regional Resources webpage.

V. Good of the Order

Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis provided an update to the Subcabinet on a recent Trade Mission to China which focused on the Shanghai Port Alliance and increasing US exports to China from the Port of Baltimore including coal, the exporting of electric vehicles to the Port of Baltimore and the 40th Anniversary of a Sister State Agreement.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.